United Nations A/71/979–S/2017/601

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 6 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting to your attention the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic on the provocation of the Azerbaijani side along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan on 4 July 2017 (see annex).

Following the armed aggression launched by Azerbaijan in April 2016, which claimed numerous lives, including among the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, two meetings were held between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, in Vienna on 16 May 2016 and in Saint Petersburg on 20 June 2016, under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). To reduce the risk of further violence, it was agreed to finalize in the shortest possible time an OSCE investigative mechanism for ceasefire violations, to expand the existing Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and to increase the number of international observers.

By consistently rejecting the creation of an investigative mechanism for ceasefire violations and the deployment of an increased number of international observers on the line of contact, Azerbaijan unequivocally reveals its failure and lack of interest in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In their statement of 18 May 2017, for example, the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group were explicit in identifying Azerbaijan as the party initiating the ceasefire violations.

As long as Azerbaijan rejects the implementation of the agreements reached in Vienna and Saint Petersburg and fails to adhere to its international commitments under the 1994 and 1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements between Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, the leadership of Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for all the human casualties, regardless of their nationality. Armenia grieves the loss of all lives and urges Azerbaijan to immediately halt its continuing ceasefire violations and provocations and to adhere strictly and without further delay to its commitments to strengthen the ceasefire regime and to create an atmosphere conducive for moving the peace process forward.

Please recycle

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh

5 July 2017

In the evening of 4 July 2017, the Azerbaijani side committed yet another provocation, firing at the territory of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic). For the first time since the aggression in April 2016, the armed forces of Azerbaijan employed a TR-107 multiple rocket launcher system. The fire was launched from the positions located in close proximity to residential buildings in the village of Alkhanlu.

The Defence Army of Artsakh was forced to take countermeasures to suppress the fire activity of the Azerbaijani army. The incident provoked by the Azerbaijani side, unfortunately, led to casualties among the villagers.

Since the aggression in April 2016 up to now, we have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the Azerbaijani side, in violation of all the norms of international humanitarian law, does not disdain to use its civilian population as a human shield for shelling the territory of Artsakh.

The peaceful population on both sides of the border has long become a hostage to the Azerbaijani authorities' policy of constant escalation of tensions on the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan and of sabotaging the efforts of the mediators to restore the negotiation process.

The incident once again confirms the importance of the agreements reached at the summits of 16 May 2016 in Vienna and of 20 June 2016 in Saint Petersburg, aimed at the stabilization of the situation on the line of contact. The immediate implementation of these agreements, torpedoed by Azerbaijan, will allow for the prevention of the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

United Nations A/71/980–S/2017/587

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2017
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 34 and 50

Security Council
Seventy-second year

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 8 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The Syrian Arab Republic has informed the Security Council and the President of the Security Council time and again that the Israeli occupying authorities are supporting armed terrorist groups, in contravention of all Security Council resolutions concerning the Syrian crisis. Not content with openly pursuing that disgraceful and brazen policy, the occupying authorities recently adopted new decisions regarding their intention to hold elections for so-called local councils in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with so-called Israeli law.

The practices of Israel come as no surprise to either our people in the occupied Syrian Golan or the Syrian people and Government. Those unlawful practices have been going on for decades, in blatant violation of international law. Since the bloody events of the past seven years in Syria began, it is clear that Israel has been exploiting and benefiting from the crisis by supporting the armed terrorist groups.

On 25 March 1981, the Syrian Arab citizens of the occupied Golan adopted their national charter, after they had proclaimed a general strike in protest against the odious and illegal decision of Israel to annex the Syrian Golan. In that national charter, the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan rejected the decision by Israel to incorporate their land into the Israeli entity. They also rejected the decisions of Israel aimed at stripping them of their Syrian Arab character and identity. In paragraph 5 of their charter, our people in the occupied Golan stated that they do not recognize the so-called local councils and that the heads and members of those illegitimate councils do not represent them under any circumstances. They also stated that they had taken an irrevocable decision to reject the imposition of Israeli identity on them. After Israel

Please recycle

adopted its most recent illegitimate decision, the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan reiterated that they vehemently rejected the measures that had been taken by Israel and that they would not recognize or act in accordance with them.

Israel has refused to comply with international law all these years and rejected United Nations resolutions calling for it to end its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan. In adopting its most recent decision, Israel is reiterating its rejection of United Nations resolutions and its refusal to respect the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic over the occupied Syrian Golan.

In its resolution 497 (1981), which was adopted by consensus on 17 December 1981, the Security Council reiterated its rejection of the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan by imposing a fait accompli, and decided that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Syrian Golan is null and void and without international legal effect. The Council also demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decisions and actions in the occupied Syrian Golan, and determined that all the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

The latest Israeli decisions are yet another flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Organization, international law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Those decisions also reflect the involvement of Israel in terrorism, which it shamelessly supports through its relationship with the Nusrah Front (QDe.137) and other terrorist organizations that are killing the Syrian people and wreaking havoc.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations and the Security Council to condemn these latest provocative actions by Israel, which are a brazen violation of resolution 497 (1981) and will cause the situation in the region to deteriorate further. Syria also calls on the Council to compel Israel to release Syrian and Palestinian prisoners from the prisons of the Israeli occupiers, the most prominent being the prisoner Sidqi al-Maqt, who has spent more than 30 years in the terrifying prisons of Israel.

The Syrian Arab Republic unequivocally rejects the Israeli decision and reiterates that the Golan will remain an integral part of Syrian territory and will be returned to its motherland sooner or later. It also reiterates its support for the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan in their resistance to Israel and their rejection of the Israeli decision to annex the Golan, the most recent Israeli decision concerning the Golan and any other illegitimate decisions taken by Israel, a country that still believes it can defy international law and the international community, which rejects Israel's occupation of Arab territory, its colonialist policy and its oppressive measures against our people in the occupied Syrian Golan. The international community also rejects Israeli efforts to prolong the Syrian crisis and Israel's provision of material and moral support to armed terrorist gangs. Those actions constitute yet another contravention of authoritative international resolutions concerning the war on terrorism that must be added to Israel's long record of violating international law and defying the will of the international community.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 50, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/71/981–S/2017/595

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 July 2017
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 11 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to previous letters from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the repeated aggressions the forces of the Turkish regime have committed against the sovereignty and territory of Syria, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On 1 July 2017, the army of the Turkish regime deployed its forces all along the border inside Syrian territory north of the Afrin area. The Turkish regime's army also brought in new pickup trucks equipped with machine guns and a number of new vehicles that have never before been seen in Syrian territory. The Turkish regime forces distributed those vehicles to armed terrorist organizations that are active in the area, including the Nusrah Front, Free Police, Ahrar al-Sham and Turkish Police terrorist organizations. Those vehicles are to be used in an attack against the Afrin area that will be led by the Nusrah Front terrorist organization (QDe.137).

One day earlier, on 30 June 2017, armed terrorist groups warned the people of Dana town and surrounding villages in the Idlib countryside that, as agreed with Turkey, they must empty the town and surrounding villages of civilians, with a view to ensuring the security of a military base that the Turkish regime will build in the Jabal Sim'an area for the purpose of cutting off the road to the Idlib countryside. Reports and assurances are circulating among armed terrorist groups supported by the Turkish regime that the regime considers the security of Idlib governorate to be essential to the security of Turkey.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the presence of Turkish regime forces in the area has led to a dispute and a rift between the Nur al-Din al-Zanki Battalions and Levant Liberation Organization terrorist groups.

Please recycle

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i

United Nations A/71/982–S/2017/600

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 July 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 118
The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 12 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Ashgabat Declaration of the high-level United Nations-Central Asia dialogue on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, which was held in Ashgabat on 13 June 2017 and was attended at the ministerial level by representatives from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

17-11964 (E) 190717

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 12 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ashgabat Declaration

1. We, the representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, have convened at the ministerial level on the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Government of Turkmenistan on 13 June 2017, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, for the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia". The High-Level Dialogue reviewed the progress made and defined future strategic priorities for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, including the Joint Plan of Action, which was adopted in this city on 30 November 2011.

2. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and recognize that the prevention of terrorism is one of the most important components of ensuring national and regional security. We also affirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, culture, civilization or ethnic group.

3. We welcome the important role of the United Nations in international counter-terrorism efforts, as well as the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council with regard to countering terrorism.

4. We welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture by establishing a new Office of Counter-Terrorism, and we look forward to working closely with this new Office. We also recognize the valuable support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office and UNRCCA in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action, as well as the expertise provided by other international, regional and subregional organizations operating in Central Asia. We also note with appreciation that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of UNRCCA.

5. We agree to further strengthen our cooperation and coordination with the United Nations and other relevant entities, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly with regard to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. While the primary responsibility to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains with us as Member States of the United Nations, we appeal for increased engagement by our bilateral partners, as well as international and regional organizations in support of its implementation.

6. We note that Central Asia is the first region where comprehensive, integrated and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was started. To this end, we recognize with satisfaction the achievements of the first two phases of the joint UNCCT-UNRCCA project "Towards the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia", which is funded by the European Union and Norway, and have agreed that on this very strong foundation, and as a way forward, we will continue to support a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through a third phase of this project.

7. We request for the continued support of the United Nations, in particular, through its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to further assist in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action, by coordinating efforts, helping build capacity, and supporting a platform for regular exchanges of information on progress towards implementation.

8. We intend to exert all necessary efforts to counter new threats identified in the fifth review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including the recommendations of the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, through promoting dialogue and conflict prevention, addressing the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, promoting youth engagement, skills development and employment facilitation, countering terrorist narrative and the misuse of information technology, as well as sharing of information and best practices.

9. We further call for greater coherence by partners, United Nations entities, as well as other regional and international organizations supporting our activities, including the use of the Matrix of Activities of regional and international organizations in supporting the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia, jointly prepared by CTITF and UNRCCA, to coordinate their work.

10. We also express our gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for their initiative and warm welcome in hosting the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia" in Ashgabat.

11. Adopted on 13th of June 2017 by the participants of the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia", in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Ashgabat, 13 June 2017